UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7251

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
COLOMBIA

IPF : (1992-96) $ 11 701 000

(COL/92/G31)- Conservation of Biodiversity in the Biogeographic Choco (Phase 1)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	26 February 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry for the Environment or Steering Committee formed by National Planning Department and INDERENA-National Institution for the Protection of Natural Resources
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 9 000 000 Source of funds: GEF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 9 000 000

Project background

The Biogeographic Chocó extends approximately 1,300 kilometers along the Pacific coast from Ecuador through Colombia to Panama. Its area totals approximately 71,000 square kilometers and constitutes 6.2 percent of the national territory. It is the region with the highest rainfall in the country (ranging from 5000 and 12000 mm.per year), with about three quarters of its area still covered by tropical forest. Preliminary studies indicate that the Choco possesses extraordinary biological diversity with one of the highest levels of endemic bird species and greatest diversity of vascular plants in the world. Roughly 20-25 percent of the region's plant species are found nowhere else on earth. Since the establishment of the Spanish colony, the province has been a centre of mining. About 900,000 people, mostly descendants of slave and Amerindian labor, live in 36 municipalities with more than half of these residing in small communities dispersed along rivers and the coastline.

Difficult access to the area has led to high degrees of cultural and socioeconomic isolation as well as the lowest standard of living in the country. The pressure to address development concerns continues to mount with renewed pressure to develop infrastructure. There is an urgent demand for redefinition of the country's Integral Development Plan for the Pacific Region (Plan Pacific) by basing it on precise knowledge of the area's ecology

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

before undertaking any investment plan. The need is to better understand and preserve the indigenous cultures, the optimum function of the remaining tropical forest zones together with their biological diversity. To this end, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The immediate objective of the project is to foster a new development alternative based on the preservation and sustainable use of the biological resources of the Choco biogeographic region.

Project activities will include: (a) identification of biological resources and their potential uses; (b) development of human resources with the participation of local communities; (c) conducting research and management activities to protect natural resources; and (d) development of financial mechanisms and investment programmes that support the above activities. The project will integrate the biodiversity concerns of the region with socio-economic and cultural systems to improve the inhabitants standard of living and to foster local communities capacity to manage and sustain their own natural resources.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a national co-ordinator (36 man-months), an administrative co-ordinator (36 man-months), five regional co-ordinators (180 man-months), eight international experts in economy (six man-months), taxonomy (eight man-months), biodiversity (nine man-months), ecodevelopment (six man-months) and communications (six man-months); national consultants (432 man-months) in the fields of biology, botany, sociology, education, organization, systems engineering and economy; numerous subcontracts to national and local NGOs, the private sector and diverse institutions to analyze the structure and function of ecosystems, the chemical and bromatological properties of certain species, the design of education/culture/ communication models, for the determination of environmentally sensitive areas, legal agreements, pilot community projects and agreements for the protection of biodiversity, legal studies on land tenure and biodiversity protection and agreements for basic research; training (scholarships, group and in-house training for project professionals, community workshops, seminars for local authorities, community workshops on ecology and culture, community intraregional exchanges and national conferences on biodiversity); scientific, expendable and non-expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	1 823 200
Subcontract	4 677 000
Training	960 000
Equipment	610 000
Overhead/support costs	354 300
Miscellaneous	575 500
Total	9 000 000